

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this amendment, claims 1-6 have been amended and claims 7-20 have been added. In the Notice of Allowability, mailed on October 7, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 1-6. Assignee would like to thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 7-20 are in a condition for allowance for at least reasons similar to those presented with respect to claims 1-6. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner allow claims 1-20 to proceed to allowance. Claims 1-6 have been amended to more clearly delineate intended subject matter, and are not intended to be a narrowing amendment. In fact, some of these amendments are believed to broaden the affected claims. Accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should apply.

The Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by Assignee. Assignee agrees that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the Examiner; however, Assignee takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the Examiner, other than the positions Assignee may have previously taken during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Therefore, the Examiner's reasons for allowance should not be attributed to Assignee as an indication of the basis for Assignees' belief that the claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the Assignee to disagree with the Examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the Assignee agrees with or acquiesce in the reasoning of the Examiner, here, by this document, Assignee is expressly making clear that no such agreement or acquiesce is present.

It is noted that the specification supports new claims 7-20. For example, support may be found in paragraphs [0020] – [0025] and Figures 1-4. Accordingly, these claims do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter these amendments so that the application may proceed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Dated: _____

12/29/05

Respectfully submitted,



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